



TOWN OF

K E N S I N G T O N

JUNE 2003 *JOURNAL*

Election Results

Council

Sara Timlin, 132 votes
Glenn Cowan, 119 votes
Darin Bartram, 78 votes
189 ballots cast including 8 absentee ballots

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

July 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Special Meeting to set Council responsibilities

July 14 at 7:00 p.m. Work Session Agenda

Public Hearing on variance request for 10213 Summit Avenue

Thursday, August 28 at 7:00 p.m. Work Session (New date)

Events

Town Picnic

Sunday, June 29th at Kensington Cabin, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

8th Annual Children's Bike Parade

Friday, July 4th at St. Paul Park, line up at 9:45 a.m.

Contact us at 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895

Phone: 301-949-2424; Fax: 301-949-4925;

E-mail: mayor.council@tok.org; Web Site: www.tok.org

e-Announcements

If you would like to receive brief e-mail updates regarding Town business please sign up for e-Announcements on the home page of the Town's website (www.tok.org)

Farmers Market

Don't forget to stop by the Farmers Market Saturdays 8:00 – 12:00.

Volunteer Needed

A volunteer is needed to serve on the Town's Audit Committee. If you are interested, please contact the Town Office for more information.

Building Permits Issued

Install sign at 10501 Wheatley Street
Restore and repair 10611 St. Paul Street
Install fence 10431 Kensington Parkway
Addition at 3507 Farragut Avenue
Addition at 3601 Dupont Avenue
Install fence at 3811 Calvert Place

Thank You

Thank you to Council Member Scharman for serving two years on the Town Council and especially for all her expertise in grant writing.

Thank you to Spencer Harrill, Eleanor Condliffe, and Wat Stewart for all their dedicated work as Election Judges.

Thank you to Marlene Cohn for moderating the Candidates Forum. Ms. Cohn has volunteered to moderate the Candidates Forum for many years and the Town appreciates her continued volunteer spirit.

Reminder

The Town Offices will be closed on July 4th. Trash pick up will be the day before the holiday on Thursday, July 3rd.

Please remove all standing water around your yard to prevent mosquito breeding sources.

Please keep our parks and your neighbors' yard clean by properly cleaning up and disposing pet's excrement. Do not put excrement in trash receptacles in our parks. You are required to dispose of dog waste at home. We thank all who are complying with this Montgomery County and Town law.

Labor Day Celebration

The 36th Annual Kensington Labor Day Parade is in the planning stages. The University of Maryland Marching Band will not be performing this year because the Town can no longer afford to pay their fee, which keeps increasing each year. However, we are thrilled

to announce that we have secured commitments from four high school marching bands to be in the parade this year. In addition, we will have a new Bolivian dance troop and the WMZQ/Turkey Hill cow (VERY LARGE!) will hand out free ice cream sandwiches along the route! If you would like to volunteer or have any ideas for the parade, please feel free to call Jenny Smith at 301-946-3804.

Calling all military personnel who live in Kensington and served overseas in connection with the conflict in Iraq. If you would like to be part of a walking unit in the front of the parade, please contact Jenny Smith at 301-946-3804. We would like to honor you and thank you for your service to our country!

And don't forget the Kensington Artisan Fair which will be on Labor Day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, and the Paint the Town Art Show which will be in Town Hall during the Labor Day weekend. If you have any questions about the Kensington Artisan Fair, please contact Andrea Gill at 301-949-4030. If you have any questions about the Paint the Town Art Show, please contact Donna Kenney at 301-564-5952.

For Your Information

MVA on Wheels

MVA on wheels , their mobile office, will be at the Friendship Heights Village Center on July 21, August 25, September 22, October 27, November 24, and December 22.

Hazardous Waste Collection Information

Saturday, June 21st 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Westland Middle School (Massachusetts Ave. west of Little Falls Parkway)

Sunday, July 13th 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Shady Grove Solid Waste Transfer Station

For more information call (240) 777-6400 or access their website www.MCReycles.org.

Message from the Mayor's Desk

Have you shopped at our Farmers' Market this season? You can now buy your whole dinner for Saturday evening. The market has wonderful fresh fish, vegetables, bread, dessert, flowers for your table and soap to wash after your great dinner.

KAT has great news, starting after the first of the year they will introduce children's entertainment. We hope our adult citizens are enjoying the plays and coming out to support our theater group.

The Town Council met with State Highway Administration District Engineer Charlie Watkins, Senator Sharon Grosfeld and Delegate Madaleno to discuss our concerns regarding traffic. High speed, cut through, volume and pedestrian safety were topics of this meeting. We have requested a study be made in our Town to address these concerns.

Letters have been sent to the new Secretary of Transportation Robert Flanagan and officials of the State Highway Administration.

Over the past several weeks we have had an environmental group removing the lead in MMC station (the old rifle range). The station has been out of regular operation for about four weeks. We hope to have the lead abatement completed and the station up and running by the end of June.

The Mayor continues to meet with Park and Planning staff while they review the proposed Safeway redevelopment plan. Much attention will be paid to this site by Park and Planning staff. The Mayor is attending all meetings to assure that the Town needs for an improved store are met with as little negative impact to our small Town environment as possible.

The Mayor met with Karen Smith, Director of Intergovernmental Relations for Governor Ehrlich. They toured the Town reviewing the revitalization projects completed and underway. Then Ms. Smith attended a Revitalization Steering Committee meeting with the Mayor. We hope Ms. Smith will share the information she obtained about our smart growth endeavors with State officials to show how the State funds were used to improve our environment and economic development.

The Mayor attended a meeting with the staff of the Maryland Municipal League and MACO along with President Marilyn Praisner to encourage Governor Ehrlich to sign the speed camera bill and remind him of the impact of the budget cuts to local government.

Scenic Maryland held a one day conference at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Center in Laurel. The topics were related to Smart Growth, Historic Preservation and Sensitive Design of Maryland State Highways and Land Preservation. The Mayor attended this conference and felt the information was well presented and gathered good information applicable to our Town.

Director of Operation's Report

Waste: Friday brush pick-ups have not been meeting expectations. Reasons for not completing on Fridays include short staffing, equipment problems, and heavy brush loads. The problem with Fridays is that a failure to complete means that the brush has to wait until Monday which is not acceptable. This is different from not finishing on Mondays as we can finish the next day. To correct this issue extra staffing will be tried on Friday's. If this fails to correct problems, other solutions will be explored.

Please do not put brush on top of your trash. As we pick up trash on the first run, a can with brush on top will be bypassed by the crew who assumes that the entire can contains brush. When the crew returns to pick up brush, they cannot also pick up the trash with the brush truck. In such a cases, the trash will have to wait until the next pick up.

Streets: Several streets will be resurfaced this year. Our project streets will be Kensington Parkway, Armory Ave. (Baltimore to Knowles), and Warner (east of Conn. Ave). Work schedule to be announced.

Parks: New playground mulch will be installed when the parks dry out enough for large trucks to cross the grass.

Council Member Scharman's Report

It has been my privilege to serve the residents, businesses, and visitors in Kensington for the last two years. I thank you for your ideas, assistance, and cooperation, as we all continue to work to make the Town a great place to live, work, and visit. I'm combining my report for the month with a summary of my efforts over the last two years.

PARK RENOVATIONS - Our latest Program Open Space application is under State review, we are preparing to submit one more, and we will submit our preliminary list for next year's application round. This will include enhancements of play equipment and tables at Reinhardt and outdoor furniture at Flinn, Clum Kennedy, and Howard Avenue parks. Program Open Space pays for 75% of park projects, with the town or co-applicant covering 25% of the costs. When I took office, my first task was to obtain reimbursement for recently completed playground projects and to plan for Phase II construction at St. Paul Park, which should begin shortly.

We completed a patio seating project in Clum-Kennedy Park using the Community Parks and Playgrounds Initiative, a 100% reimbursable competitive grant fund established by the General Assembly. We applied for funds to re-open Kensington Cabin (MNCPPC property) under this one-time program, since no other funds were available to renovate the building. When this was unsuccessful, we contacted MNCPPC personnel to determine if their current budgets might have funds to restore the cabin, since it is a valuable resource needing immediate attention. Through numerous contacts and meetings, we secured funds and identified strategies to be used to re-open the cabin.

Some work remains to be done to plan for and carry out the planned improvements in Town parks and County properties. I wish the process to obtain funding, develop construction specifications, and obtain bids and reimbursements wasn't so lengthy, but several of the planned projects should be completed shortly. In addition to approximately \$75,000 reimbursements we received for completed projects, there are projects totaling about \$175,000 which are ready for construction or under final review. I believe our more frequent use of the grant programs has made it easier for the Town to plan for, seek funds, and perform the work more quickly and efficiently.

PARK MANAGEMENT - I have drafted the framework for a comprehensive Park Management Plan which can be used in maintaining our park resources, despite changes in or absences of elected officials, town employees, or contractors. I researched and drafted permitting regulations specifying conditions of use, in the event that usage patterns for our parks change.

Trees - The spring planting should be completed shortly, while the trees can take advantage of the moist ground but before the hot weather. I have enjoyed chairing the Tree Board the past two years. We have developed planting plans and tree species lists, overseen the completion of a tree inventory for all town trees, and are ready to develop a database to manage the inventory data. Most of the costs of the trees and labor for our last

two plantings were funded by the State of Maryland, since we applied through their forestry funding program. I researched tree preservation ordinances relating to trees on private property for consideration by the Tree Board and Town Council. I have drafted an outline for a Tree Management Plan which can be used by the Board, Council, and staff to manage our tree resources.

ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION - I am working with the Kensington Revitalization Steering Committee in efforts to retain and attract businesses, coordinate with the business community on promotional efforts, and maintain and define the unique attraction of Kensington as a small, historic town in Montgomery County with a significant and vibrant commercial district. Connecticut Avenue's increasing traffic volume threatens the town's character and accessibility of pedestrians and drivers, both key factors in business development in a town like ours. I am assisting the KRSC in defining concerns and ideas, and facilitating coordination with the Traffic Committee and Council so this highway and our other streets enhance, rather than detract from, to our lives and work.

TOWN WEBSITE - I developed a list of information and items to be considered for the Town website and worked with Council Member Carr to draft a requirements document. We believe the website should contain current information and photos which capture the physical character and activities taking place in town. It should facilitate interaction with the Town government and be a tool for residents, businesses, and visitors to utilize resources in the Town and surrounding areas.

OTHER - I drafted ordinance language for processes to notify residents of building permit issuances and provide the opportunity to appeal decisions on permit issuances or denials.

Town Meeting

May 19, 2003

A Candidate Forum was held at 7:00 p.m.

A Forum was held on zoning and building regulations of Montgomery County. Khalid Afzal, Team Leader from MNCPPC, Robert Hubbard, Director of Permitting Services, Kimberly Williams, Commissioner from HPC, and Judith Heimann, former member of Board of Appeals gave overviews of their departments and answered questions regarding them.

Mayor Raufaste called the Meeting to order at 9:00 p.m. with Council Members Carr, Cowan, Pfautz, and Scharman, Director of Operations Furman, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A Moment of Silence was observed.

A public hearing was held on the FY 2003-2004 budget.

The Mayor read a proclamation declaring June 20, 2003 as National Small Cities and Towns Day.

The Mayor read a proclamation declaring “Save a Life Season” from May 19, 2003 to November 16, 2003 encouraging residents to support the initiative of helping the Red Cross achieve its goals.

The Mayor thanked Council Member Scharman for all her work in the Program Open Space Grants.

The Mayor presented a monthly report. The Council and Director of Operations will submit their reports for the Journal.

Council Actions

Council Member Pfautz moved to adopt the proposed fiscal year 2003-2004 budget as presented. It was seconded by Council Member Carr and passed unanimously with the Mayor concurring.

Council Member Carr moved to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2003 Budget Meeting, the April 28, 2003 Town Meeting and the May 5, 2003 Work Session as amended by Council Member Scharman with the following corrections/additions to the May 5, 2003 minutes: Fourth paragraph at the end of the first sentence add “, including a process for public notification of permit issuance. This would provide a way that citizens would be informed about building permits issued by the Town Office and a mechanism for appealing the granting or denial of permits to the Town Council.”; 6th paragraph: Replace first sentence with: “Council Member Scharman presented a proposed permitting system for the Town’s parks to insure that reservations for the St. Paul Park ballfield are honored and that the Town could place conditions and fees on the frequent use by large groups.” Insert at end of that paragraph: She also reviewed the draft Park Management Plan outline which would provide a system for managing and maintaining the Town’s parks.” Council Member Scharman seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Pfautz moved to approve the Mayor’s proclamation of June 20, 2003 as National Small Cities and Towns Day. Council Member Carr seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Cowan moved to approve the Town being co-permittee with the County for the NPDES permit requirements. Council Member Pfautz seconded and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Work Session of Mayor & Council

June 9, 2003

The Work Session commenced at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Carr, Cowan, Pfautz, and Scharman, Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present and the following issues were addressed:

The Mayor swore in Glenn Cowan and Sara Loechel Timlin as Council Members effective July 1, 2003.

The Mayor and Council discussed the enforcement of the sign ordinance and will discuss this further at the July Work Session. Council Member Cowan, Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton, Chris Bruch, and Roger Waterstreet from the County's Dept. of Permitting Services will meet to discuss enforcement and possibly a workshop for business owners.

The minutes from the May 19, 2003 Town Meeting were reviewed

The Project List was reviewed and updated. Traffic study, narrow streets, and Joseph's Park have already been addressed and were removed from the project list

The monthly correspondence was reviewed.

The Council supported the Mayor's Proclamation declaring the week of June 22-29 as Amateur Radio Week in recognition of amateur radio operators who have demonstrated their value in public assistance.

The Mayor thanked Council Member Scharman for her dedicated service.

Council Actions

Council Member Pfautz moved to reallocate the following items in fiscal year 2002/2003 budget:

Add Tree Grant line to revenue for \$19,273; Change Landscaping Expense to \$69,273; Change Administrative Salary Expense to \$123,000; Change Town Hall Repairs and Maintenance Expense to \$16,000; Change Equipment CIP Expense to \$0; Change Street Maintenance Expense to \$17,000; Change Sidewalk Maintenance/Reconstruction Expense to \$32,500; Change Stormdrain Maintenance/Reconstruction Expense to \$17,000; Change Small Equipment and Maintenance/Repairs Expense to \$11,500; Change Vehicle Expense to \$34,000; Change Vehicle Preventative Maintenance Expense to \$2,000; Change Garage Maintenance/Utilities Expense to \$5,000; and Change Disposal Cost Expense to \$34,000. Council Member Carr seconded and it passed.

Council Member Pfautz moved to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2003 Town Meeting as circulated. Council Member Carr seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Pfautz moved to adopt resolution 2003-01 to allow the Mayor to designate a Resident Agent for the Town. Council Member Cowan seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Pfautz moved to allow a Town tree nursery on the lot at North Kensington Parkway. Council Member Cowan seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Carr moved to take the necessary steps to purchase a radar speed trailer with fiscal year 2002/2003 funds. Council Member Cowan amended the motion to look

into video upgrade capabilities. Council Member Scharman seconded and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Corrections to Minutes from May 5, 2003

The following paragraphs from the Minutes of May 5th were corrected after publication in the May Journal.

Council Member Scharman presented a proposed building permit appeal process for the Town Code including a process for public notification of permit issuance. This would provide a way that citizens would be informed about building permits issued by the Town Office and a mechanism for appealing the granting or denial of permits to the Town Council. The Mayor and Council concurred to write a more informal procedure to provide a better description and notification of issuance of a building permit.

Council Member Scharman presented a proposed permitting system for the Town's parks to insure that reservations for the St. Paul Park ballfield are honored and that the Town could place conditions and fees on the frequent use by large groups. The Council will review the document and provide comments to be discussed at the next Work Session. She also reviewed the draft Park Management Plan outline which would provide a system for managing and maintaining the Town's parks.